



LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

November 15–20, 2026
College of Charleston
Charleston, SC

Government Finance Officers Association
gfoa.org/leadership-academy



TAKING YOUR CAREER TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Enhance your leadership skills and advance your career.

The GFOA Leadership Academy at the College of Charleston provides senior public and government finance professionals an opportunity to bolster their leadership and management skills to better serve their communities.

Through sessions and self-assessments, participants will:

- › Optimize their technical knowledge and abilities to enhance leadership skills
- › Gain new ideas to improve their organizations and communities
- › Be more prepared to lead teams, steer organization vision, and manage multiple stakeholders
- › Hone their abilities to handle difficult discussions, politically complex initiatives, and challenging executive roles
- › Strengthen their networks through new connections with speakers and peer participants

The week-long Leadership Academy offers participants an opportunity to step away from day-to-day demands and technical training and instead focus on leadership development.

“ I would recommend the Leadership Academy to any aspiring leaders in GFOA. It isn't often one has the opportunity to learn from some of the greatest leaders in our field. **”**

– Barbara Whitehorn,
Chief Financial Officer,
City of Asheville, NC



POWER-PACKED AGENDA

From the opening reception and dinner to the closing lunch, the week features a mix of sessions designed to spur individual learning, develop organizational insights, and nurture development of leadership skills. Sessions are intended to balance the role of the finance professional in state and local government with key trends in leadership for the public sector. Representative sessions include:

- › Self-assessments and other behavioral insights designed to help participants understand how they work—and how they can best contribute to their organizations
- › Leadership skills for the 21st century
- › Characteristics of great organizations
- › You and your organization
- › Values of public service
- › Case study preparation and presentations
- › Leadership discussions and reflections, and more

“ The smaller class size allowed for the group to bond and create a lifelong professional support community. **”**

– Amanda Six,
Director of Budget and
Financial Reporting,
Hanover County
Public Schools, VA

STANDOUT SPEAKERS



Leadership Academy speakers will share their perspectives on the roles and responsibilities of state and local government officials in a complex and rapidly changing world. They will discuss career insights gleaned from research and hands-on leadership experience. The faculty includes:



Erika Joseph Bergen

Founder, EJB Consulting



Chris Morrill

Executive Director, Government
Finance Officers Association



Ben Fauske

Founder, RISE Leadership



Kim Nelson

Professor of Public Administration &
Government, University of North Carolina



Dr. Ulrich Jenson

Associate Professor, School of Public
Affairs, Arizona State University



Robert O'Neill

Executive in Residence, Joseph P. Riley, Jr.
Center for Livable Communities



Shayne Kavanagh

Senior Research Manager, Government
Finance Officers Association



REGISTER NOW

The Leadership Academy is limited
to 45 participants. To apply to attend,
visit gfoa.org/leadership-academy



Campus Location

The Leadership Academy's location on the College of Charleston campus fosters learning and professional development in an environment steeped in gracious Southern charm and heritage. Founded in 1770, the College is the country's 13th oldest university and is located in the heart of the City of Charleston, considered a true jewel of the South.



Who Should Attend?

- › Finance Directors
- › Assistant Finance Directors
- › Treasurers
- › Department Managers or Directors
- › Assistant City Managers
- › City Managers



CPE Credits

Attendees can earn 30 CPE credits through participation. GFOA is registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) as a sponsor of continuing professional education on the National Registry of CPE Sponsors. State boards of accountancy have final authority on the acceptance of individual courses for CPE credit. NASBRegistry.org



Cost

Tuition of \$2,500 includes all speaker and working sessions, weekday lunches, and several dinners and receptions. It does not include the cost of travel or lodging.



Lodging

The Courtyard Charleston – Historic District is offering participants a confirmed preferential rate of \$250 per night plus taxes and fees. The hotel provides complimentary WiFi, continental breakfast, and access to the fitness center, and is centrally located in the Charleston Historic District.



ABOUT GFOA

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) promotes excellence in state and local government financial management. It provides best practice guidance, technical resources, leadership, professional development and networking opportunities, award programs, and advisory services for more than 23,000 members and the governments they represent.

For more on GFOA, visit gfoa.org.

